

Introductory Remarks
Dr. Wes Pittman
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Dallas, Texas
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Good afternoon, my name is Wes Pittman and I am president of the American Optometric Association. It is a pleasure to welcome you to today's session.

Like the Census, the White House Conference on Aging comes along only once every ten years. It is a unique opportunity to discuss the evolving needs of our aging population.

We are pleased to be hosting a 2005 White House Conference on Aging Solutions Forum in conjunction with Optometry's Meeting. Vision is an essential "quality of life" issue for our nation's seniors. Issues relating to mobility and independence are tied closely to a person's ability to see, so it makes great sense for us to gather here in the Heart of Texas, in conjunction with the world's most important optometric gathering, to discuss ways to improve access to eye care.

Finally, I want to offer a special welcome to the Honorable Dorcas Hardy and her staff. It is an honor to have the chairman of the White House Conference Policy Committee with us today. As the former Commissioner for Social Security, she has keen insight into issues affecting America's seniors.

We look forward to a useful and informative session this afternoon.

Thank you.

